

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed January 9, 2008 has been carefully reviewed and this paper is responsive thereto. Claims 2-8, 10-12, 14 and 33-43 are pending. Claims 1 and 15-32 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-12, 14-28, 30 and 32 were rejected. Claims 2 and 33-43 were deemed allowable.

Interview with the Examiner

Applicant's representatives would like to express their appreciation for the time taken by the Examiner to discuss this case during a telephonic interview that took place on April 7, 2008. Clarification was sought as it appeared that claims 33-43 were indicated as being allowable in one section of the Office Action but were suggested to be rejected in another section of the Office Action. Based on the teleconference it is understood that claims 33-43 were deemed allowable in the Office Action and the indication that these claims were rejected was simply an inadvertent statement carried over from a prior Office Action.

Cancelled Claims

Claims 1, 15-22, 24-28, 30 and 32 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and Applicants reserve the right to file similar claims in a continuation application. In view of the cancelling of these claims, their rejection is deemed moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 33-43 were indicated as being allowable. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability. Several dependent claims have been amended to depend from claim 2 rather than claim 1 and therefore are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons supporting the allowability of claim 2.

Amendment to the Claims

Claims 3-8, 10-12 and 14 have been amended to depend from claim 2, thus no new matter has been added.

Amendments to the Drawings

Replacements sheets 1-34 are submitted with this paper to address informalities noted in the drawings and to improve reproducibility of the drawings. No new matter was added.

Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been amended to ensure that the features disclosed in the drawings are also recited in the description. In addition, Applicants have reviewed the specification and have corrected typographical and other minor errors to clarify the specification, as requested by the Examiner. To the extent necessary, additional support for the amendments to original paragraph 71 can be found in U.S. Patent No. 6,227,203, Col. 10, L. 15-34, which was incorporated by reference in original paragraph 70 of the specification as filed. Accordingly, no new matter was added. In view of the amendments to the drawings and the specification, all objections are believed addressed.

CONCLUSION

All rejections and objections have been addressed. Applicants believe all pending claims are in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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